

March 3, 2022

In support of Bill #5283

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for Bill #5283 which secures equal funding for agriculture education.

I graduated from Nonnewaug High School and the Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience Program in June 2021 after studying veterinary science there for four years. I am now working towards a bachelor's degree in animal science at the University of Findlay, in the hopes of attending veterinary school in the future.

Agricultural education has given me the opportunity to research my potential future career, explore its different pathways, and determine if it is the best fit for me all before beginning my collegiate career.

This has given me a step above my peers who did not receive agricultural education, both in my knowledge regarding agricultural but in my leadership and social skills. Additionally, I have two younger sisters, Hannah (17) and Samantha (14) who are currently enrolled in the Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience Program and I wish for this to continue to be an opportunity for them.

Our society is built on the foundation of agriculture. It is where we get our food, clothes, and medicine.

Agricultural education works to teach our country's young people about the importance and workings surrounding agriculture which most of the today's population lacks. The public is unaware of where their food comes from and how the agriculture industry operates and relies on media to form their opinions which is often filled with misinformation. Agricultural education develops our children into more knowledgeable individuals, allowing them to understand how our world works. Additionally, when paired with organizations such as The National FFA Organization, gives them valuable life skills such as leadership, interpersonal communication, and public speaking. All of which will make them more productive members of society and will carry with them the rest of their lives.

Thank you for providing our agricultural educators and programs with equal access to resources given to all our other educators and schools, as well as allowing them to (as the FFA mission statement reads) make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Sincerely,
Meghan Kostka
Oxford, CT